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ABNER WELLBORN CALHOUN[1]

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IT is altogether fitting and proper that the memory of Dr. Calhoun should be enshrined in the Abner W. Calhoun lectureship foundation. His achievements as citizen, soldier, physician, and teacher constitute a distinguished chapter in the chronicles of the history of this great state and add luster to the records of many other notable accomplishments of which you are justly proud.

Dr. Calhoun was fortunate in his parentage and the guidance thus bestowed, and the register of the events of his life portrays the unfolding and development of his sterling character and his resolve "to do the work in hand with scrupulous and unaffected dignity, freely and justly."

Introduced by his father to the study of medicine, he matriculated in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia and was graduated as the honor man of his class, well nigh 60 years ago. Especially interested in the study of anatomy in his student days, he continued that interest when he went abroad shortly after his graduation. Attracted by the eminence of Hertel, he spent all available hours in his dissecting room, where, indeed, for a time he was his prosecutor. During this period he was offered the chair of anatomy in the Atlanta Medical College. How better could he have laid the foundation for his future career as a notable exponent of one department of special surgery, wherein he was destined to attain a prominent place, than by acquiring proficiency in this important fundamental branch of the medical sciences.

Doubtless influenced by his father, he realized the necessity of gaining specialized knowledge and experience in ophthalmology and otolaryngology, and with characteristic energy and ambition sought and obtained instruction in the clinics of the masters of those days in these departments of medical and surgical work.

Fully and admirably equipped, he returned to his own home and was elected professor of ophthalmology and otolaryngology, in the Atlanta Medical College, of which his father had been one of the founders. He continued with praiseworthy ability to fulfill the duties of this distinguished post until the day of his death, serving not alone as teacher, but as administrator, and in all the ways he was able admirably strove for its development and improvement.

[1] Adapted from the introduction to the lecture delivered before the Medical Association of Georgia under the auspices of the Abner Wellborn Calhoun Lecture Foundation.

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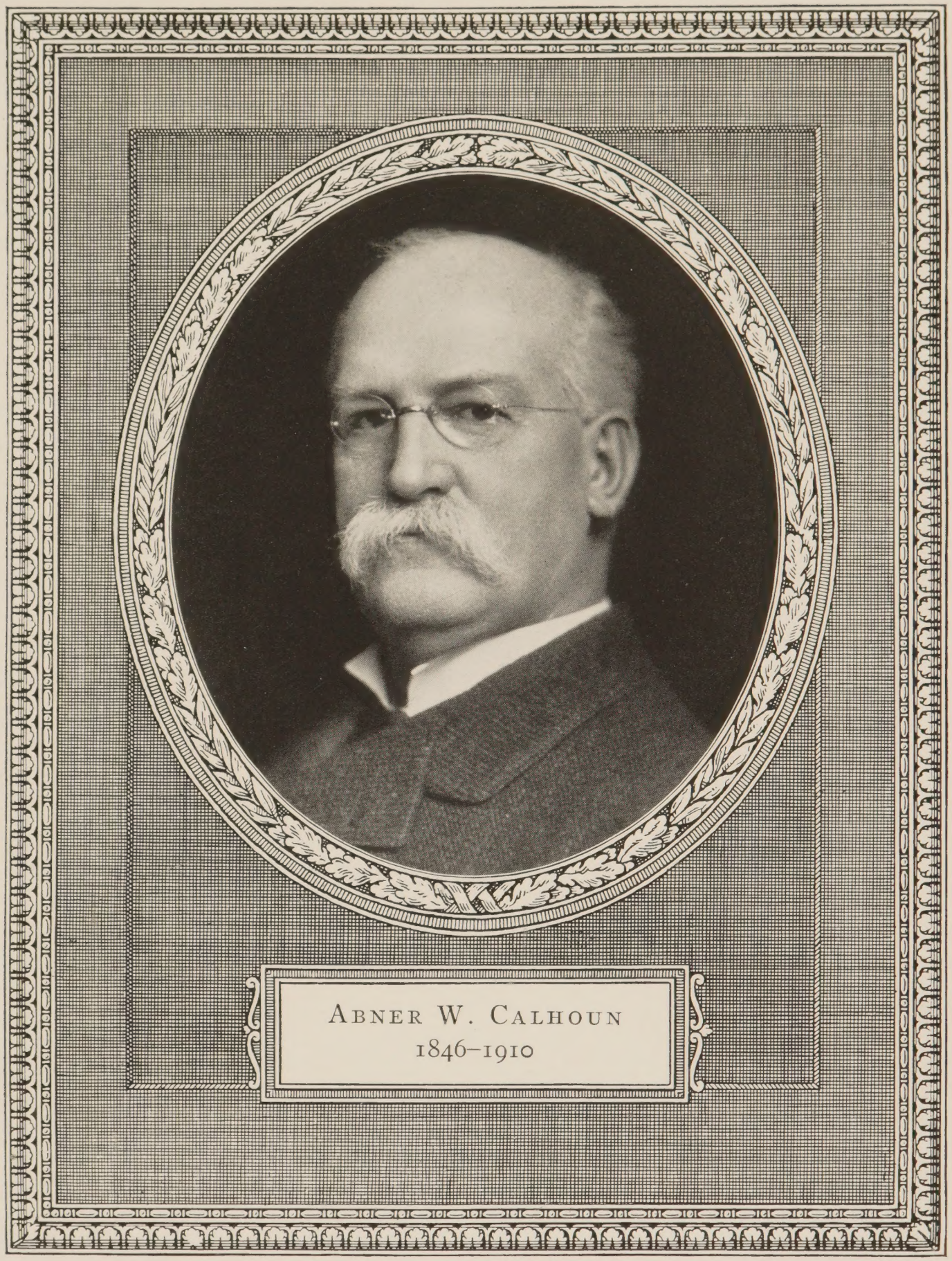

ABNER W. CALHOUN
1846–1910

His success was immediate and there gathered about him an extensive clientele, the most extensive this Southland has ever known. From far and wide his patients came seeking the help of his clinical and his operative skill, and no one, rich or poor, sought this benefit in vain.

His commanding presence, his distinguished personality, his utter friendliness, his high ideals, his balanced judgment, his untiring energy, his manual dexterity —these were the assets of this gifted man, spent with fine liberality for the advantage of his adoring patients and of his admiring students.

His was the hand which restored to countless hundreds the priceless heritage of sight. He lived his life abundantly. Of him it may be said, as it has been said of another great physician, "the very name of him was Victory."

Deeply concerned with the obligations and responsibilities of medical and surgical practice, he none the less found time to accept and faithfully to perform the duties which pertain to organized medicine, to teach to the eminent satisfaction of his students, to contribute liberally and efficiently to the literature of the Department of Medicine and Surgery he so well adorned, to engage effectively in public affairs, and to be an outstanding citizen imbued with the spirit of civic righteousness and of business rectitude.

He was a great physician and a great gentleman. He belonged to that rare group of men who find hidden joy in every perfect service and who give fine example of the conduct of the higher life.

In my early days, long ago, it was my privilege to visit Dr. Calhoun. This was a happy circumstance in my life. The impressions then gained have never failed. I am honored in the opportunity of paying him tribute, albeit inadequately framed and spoken, but I pay it reverently and in that reverence I know you join.

I quote some recently published lines, somewhat altered in their relations, and yet appropriate:

> And when he walked, his was the stride of one
> Who lives a tireless servant of his land.
> He knew that land and held its honor high.
> There was no cedar tree in all his wood
> More finely straight than he.
> He cannot be forgotten by his own.

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